

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER
AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 2735

Mr. WEXLER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 2735, the Motor Vehicle Owners' Right to Repair Act of 2003.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GOODLATTE). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

PERMISSION FOR COMMITTEE ON
APPROPRIATIONS TO HAVE
UNTIL MIDNIGHT, JULY 30, 2003,
TO FILE A PRIVILEGED REPORT
ON DEPARTMENTS OF TRANS-
PORTATION, TREASURY AND
INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPRO-
PRIATIONS BILL, 2004

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Appropriations have until midnight, July 30, 2003, to file a privileged report, making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation and Treasury, and independent agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 2859 and that I may include tabular and extraneous material.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL AP-
PROPRIATIONS FOR DISASTER
RELIEF ACT, 2003

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 339, I call up the bill (H.R. 2859) making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2003, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 339, the bill is considered read for amendment.

The text of H.R. 2859 is as follows:

H.R. 2859

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2003, namely:

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RE-
SPONSE

Disaster Relief

For an additional amount for "Disaster Relief" for necessary expenses in carrying

out the functions of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.), \$983,600,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That this amount is designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 502 of H. Con. Res. 95 (108th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2004.

This Act may be cited as the "Emergency Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act, 2003".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. After 1 hour of debate on the bill, it shall be in order to consider the amendment made in order by the resolution, if offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY), or his designee, which shall be considered read, and shall be debatable for 20 minutes, equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent.

The gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) each will control 30 minutes of debate on the bill.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG).

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the question of adopting the Toomey amendment to H.R. 2859 may be subject to postponement as though under clause 8 of rule XX.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I do so to present the emergency supplemental appropriations bill, the second supplemental for fiscal year 2003. We have had considerable debate already on the bill as we debated the rule. This is a very simple, straightforward emergency bill that includes \$983.6 million for the Disaster Relief Fund, which is now a part of the Department of Homeland Security. We know that there are Members that have other interests, and the administration has other interests. We had already reported from the Committee on Appropriations a supplemental that was more far reaching than this, but it appears the proper thing to do now is to just present this emergency supplemental strictly for Disaster Relief because the Disaster Relief account has a serious problem with running out of money. I do not think we need a lot of debate on this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 5 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, before I discuss this matter before us, I would like to alert Members of the House to the situation we face on the VA-HUD bill. There have been approximately 40 amendments offered to that bill. Perhaps 10 of them at this point will fall by the wayside, people deciding not to offer them. If the others simply take 5 minutes on each side and if about a third to a half of them have rollcalls, that will take

us to probably 7 o'clock tonight. I am sorry. I said that wrong. If we have no rollcalls and if we just have 5 minutes of debate on each side, it will take us until about 7 o'clock tonight. If there are any rollcalls at all, then let us say there are rollcalls on about a third of the amendments, that means we would be here until about 9 o'clock tonight. And if you have one-third of those amendments where you take at least 10 minutes a side, then we are going to be here until about 11 o'clock.

I want Members to understand that now, because I know a lot of them are assuming that they are going to be able to catch 6 o'clock planes. Unless something happens, that is not going to be true. I would urge Members to think through whether they are serious in offering these amendments. If they are, obviously they have a right to offer them. But I think Members need to understand what the realistic time frame is as well and would urge Members to take that into consideration if in fact they are planning to get out of here on a plane this evening.

Mr. Speaker, having given that notice, let me simply say that we have already made quite clear that we think that this supplemental is deficient in a number of areas, especially in the areas of fire fighting and in the area of AmeriCorps, but in my view there is no sense chewing that cud twice. We have already talked about it on the rule.

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. OBEY. I yield to the gentleman from Washington.

Mr. DICKS. I appreciate the gentleman yielding. The one concern I have in the Toomey amendment which is yet to be offered, since it was not printed in the RECORD as it was supposed to be, but, anyway, in the Toomey amendment, we are going to have an across-the-board cut. One of the items that was not exempted was fire fighting. We are already not getting the supplemental funding for fire fighting that was promised in this bill. Last year they borrowed money from all the accounts to fund the fire fighting. That is what we are going to have to wind up doing again. But then on top of that, we are going to have to have an across-the-board cut. I am told this would be 7 or \$8 million out of the fire fighting funds. I know you can defer it if the President does this and that. All I am saying is, I do not think this amendment is very well thought out, I do not like across-the-board amendments normally; and so I hope that this will at least be thought about as we get into the debate on this supplemental.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I simply want to say that I agree with the gentleman's observation, but it is obvious we are going to be voting on the amendment so I think I will withhold my comments on it until we are actually at the amending stage.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.